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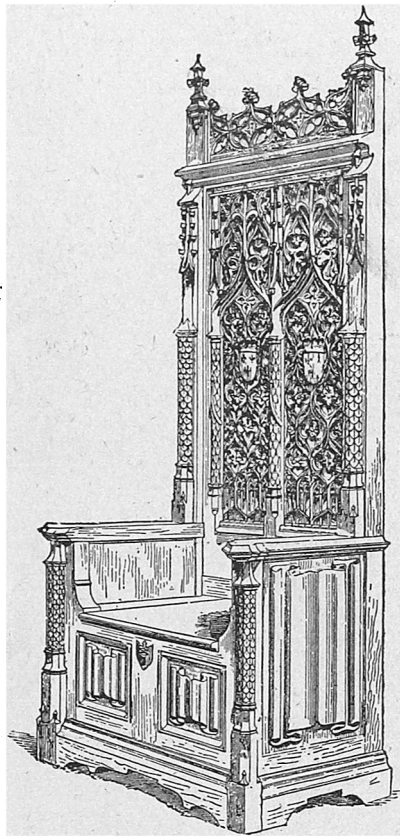
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A HIGH-BACKED CHAIR IN CARVED OAK.
FRENCH. FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

style, rich in the extreme; its lines are made of soft, graceful curves and details, wherein we find richness within richness, harmony within harmony. Its best examples to-day are to be found in Roman Catholic churches.

From France the Gothic spread to Italy, Germany and England, and for over three centuries was in the Occident the style of Christianity and Catholicism.

IN SELECTING wall paper the average buyers are apt to want what they like. John Ruskin properly says that we may know what we like, but to have a care that we like the right thing, and generally what a client likes is unfit for the particular place where he wishes it. It is quite a different thing looking at a pattern on a rack with the dulcet tones of the persuasive salesman assuring you that "it is the latest thing out" and viewing that same pattern on a wall multiplied many times.

A NOVEL writing cabinet has recently been invented in the form of a hanging secretaire with a fall-down flap in the centre—not unlike a large wall cabinet. It is so constructed that it can be attached to the back of an upright piano, and thus serve as a useful and ornamental substitute for the now somewhat common-place drapery.

YOUNG people beginning life together sometimes are wretched on the rock of display; it is so natural to wish for things better than our neighbors, but stop a minute and think the matter over, decide whether you will burden yourselves with useless debt or buy what you can afford, that you may be able to afford better by-and-by.

WALL PAINTING.

THE best preparation for distemper is, says an authority on house painting, a thin flat coat of paint. The wall should at first be sized with a mixture made of soap, alum, and a little glue, tinting the size or paint to color, if dark colors are to be used or the wall is rough, as church walls are. The distemper itself should never be put on in more than one coat, as it tends to peel if thick. The glue should be covered with water, allowed to stand over night, the non-absorbed water poured off, and the glue melted. The color, made up with pigment and fine whiting or Paris white (or zinc white for very fine work) to a paste, is now mixed with the glue and applied cool. An absorbent wall requires, of course, a larger quantity of water. If oil be used the wall should be primed or sized. The first coat ought to be of white-lead mixed with plenty of oil, a little japan, and some turpentine. The fourth, or last coat, should be made flat, well thinned with turpentine but possess the full color intended. It is stated that the surface thus produced will bear cleaning with a damp cloth, although it contains little exposed oil. A wall with a smooth white sand finish, dry and hard, is necessary for coloring, and damp spots should be treated with shellac. For church walls, a rough floated surface is best for distemper. Stippling the wall surface is a method sometimes used for fine work, and is done by treating the walls with the butt of the bristles. A solid effect is obtained by the process if a full coat of color is given first.

For wall colors, grays, greenish grays or deep reds are suitable. Mr. W. Morris, in a list of wall colors, recommends a solid red, not very deep, but rather describable as a full pink, and toned with yellow and blue; a light orange pink to be used sparingly; a pale golden tint (yellowish brown), a very difficult color to hit; a pale copper color between these two; tints of green, from pure and pale to deepish and gray, always remembering that the purer the paler and the deeper the grayer. These are all tried and artistic colors. Perhaps a terra cotta red or pink is one of the most useful colors for halls and the dados of dining-rooms and staircases, where there is plenty of light. Tints of gray, from bluish to greenish tones, are suitable, and a salmon color is effective in a room full of cold light.

IN THE eighteenth century wall paper came into common use, although known at a much earlier date to the Chinese; but these early papers were difficult to hang, being made in small squares and numerous jointed in a manner far from beautiful; nor was this defect remedied until the end of the eighteenth century, when machinery was invented to turn out the long strips as now manufactured.

COLORS have their days of favor with decorators. The wise woman will never decide upon the tint of her rooms merely because of style, but because each color has some substantial claim to her regard.

